

The Cheerful Letter

EVERY PLACE A CHURCH; EVERY DAY THE LORD'S DAY; ALL EVENTS BLESSINGS; ALL JOY
THANKSGIVING; AND ALL NATURE AND LIFE FULL OF GOD.—James Freeman Clarke.

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THE ELIXIR.

Teach me, my God and King,
In all things Thee to see;
And what I do in anything,
To do it as for Thee.

A man that looks on glass,
On it may stay his eye;
Or, if he pleaseth, through it pass,
And then the heaven espy.

All may of Thee partake;
Nothing can be so mean,
Which with this tincture, *For Thy sake*,
Will not grow bright and clean.

A servant, with this clause,
Makes drudgery divine;
Who sweeps a room, as for Thy laws,
Makes that and the action fine.

This is the famous stone
That turneth all to gold;
For that which God doth touch and own,
Cannot for less be told.

—George Herbert.

INSTEAD OF A SERMON.

[Extracts from the address of President Roosevelt before the National Congress of Mothers.]

In the last analysis the welfare of the State depends absolutely upon whether or not the average family, the average man and woman and their children, represent the kind of citizenship fit for the foundation of a great nation; and, if we fail to appreciate this, we fail to appreciate the root morality upon which all healthy civilization is based.

No ordinary work done by a man is either as hard or as responsible as the work of a woman who is bringing up a family of small children; for upon her time and strength demands are made not only every hour of the day, but often every hour of the night. She may have to get up night after night to take care of a sick child, and yet must by day continue to do all her household duties as well; and, if the family means are scant, she must usually enjoy even her rare holidays taking her whole brood of children with her. Above all, our sympathy and regard are due to the struggling wives among those whom Abraham Lincoln called the plain people, and whom he so loved and trusted; for the lives of these women are often led on the lonely heights of quiet, self-sacrificing heroism.

Just as the happiest and most honorable and most useful task that can be set any man is to earn enough for the support of his wife and family, for the bringing up and starting in life of his children, so the most important, the most honorable and desirable task which can be set any woman is to be a good and wise mother in a home marked by self-respect and mutual forbearance, by willingness to perform duty, and by refusal to sink into self-indulgence or avoid that which entails effort and self-sacrifice.

Into the woman's keeping is committed the destiny of the generations to come

after us. In bringing up your children, you mothers must remember that, while it is essential to be loving and tender, it is no less essential to be wise and firm. Foolishness and affection must not be treated as interchangeable terms, and, besides training your sons and daughters in the softer and milder virtues, you must seek to give them those stern and hardy qualities which in after life they will surely need. Some children will go wrong in spite of the best training, and some will go right even when their surroundings are most unfortunate. Nevertheless, an immense amount depends upon the family training. If you mothers, through weakness, bring up your sons to be selfish and to think only of themselves, you will be responsible for much sadness among the women who are to be their wives in the future. If you let your daughters grow up idle, perhaps under the mistaken impression that, as you yourselves have had to work hard, they shall know only enjoyment, you are preparing them to be useless to others and burdens to themselves.

Teach boys and girls alike that they are not to look forward to lives spent in avoiding difficulties, but to lives spent in overcoming difficulties. Teach them that work, for themselves and also for others, is not a curse, but a blessing. Seek to make them happy, to make them enjoy life, but seek also to make them face life with the steadfast resolution to wrest success from labor and adversity, and to do their whole duty before God and to man. Surely she who can thus train her sons and her daughters is thrice fortunate among women.

To sum up, then, the whole matter is simple enough. If either a race or an individual prefers the pleasure of mere effortless ease, of self-indulgence, to the infinitely deeper, the infinitely higher pleasures that come to those who know the toil and the weariness, but also the joy, of hard duty well done, why, that race or that individual must inevitably in the end pay the penalty of leading a life both vapid and ignoble. No man and no woman really worthy of the name can care for a life spent solely or chiefly in the avoidance of risk and trouble and labor. Save in exceptional cases, the prizes worth having in life must be paid for, and the life worth living must be a life of work for a worthy end, and ordinarily of work more for others than for one's self.

The man is but a poor creature whose

effort is not rather for the betterment of his wife and children than for himself; and, as for the mother, her very name stands for loving unselfishness and self-abnegation, and, in any society fit to exist, is fraught with associations which render it holy.

The woman's task is not easy,—no task worth doing is easy,—but in doing it, and when she has done it, there shall come to her the highest and holiest joy known to mankind; and, having done it, she shall have the reward prophesied in Scripture, for her husband and her children, yes, and all people who realize that her work lies at the foundation of all national happiness, and greatness, shall rise up and call her blessed.

THE STILL HOUR.

ALL FOR GOD.

I ask not, take away this weight of care,
No, for that love I pray that all can bear;

And for the faith that whatsoe'er befall
Must needs be good, and for my profit prove,
Since from my Father's heart most rich in
love,

And from his bounteous hands it cometh
all.

I ask not that my course be calm and still;
No, here, too, Lord, be done Thy holy will.

I ask but for a quiet, childlike heart,
Though thronging cares and restless toil be
mine,

Yet may my heart remain forever Thine,
Draw it from earth, and fix it where Thou
art.

—*Carl Johann Philip Spitta.*

FAITH.

God blesses us wonderfully, even when our faith is like a grain of sand. What may he not do for us when we rely upon him with the strong confidence of children! With such faith good works almost without limit would naturally follow, and these good works would begin in our own hearts and in our daily living; for thus, and thus only, would we be prepared to extend our works beyond ourselves. Faith and pure living are inseparable. True religion is undefiled. If men who profess to be religious are not so, it is not that religion itself is wanting in any good element, but that they fall short of the standard raised on high that all may see it, even Jesus Christ.

The faith which every one ought to have is like the faith of little children in their parents.—*L. H. Reynolds.*

THE BOOK AND MAGAZINE CLUB.

[Send all offers and requests for this department to Mrs. W. B. Nichols, 2 Kensington Park, Roxbury, Mass.]

BEFORE WRITING TO ASK FOR BOOKS, DO NOT FAIL TO READ THE FOLLOWING DIRECTIONS.

Please remember, when you see a request for a book in the Book Club, to write a card to Mrs. Nichols, asking, "Shall I send such a book to such a person?" before sending it, else the person who requests it may receive several copies. When any one writes directly to you, asking for a book offered by you, send a card to Mrs. Nichols, saying that you have sent it. When you receive more requests than you can meet, send these to the Book Club to be printed there.

Please write only on one side of the paper in sending lists or letters to the secretary.

OFFERS.

Will any one who would like to receive "Black Beauty" address Miss Langmaid, 71 Newbury Street, Boston, Mass.?

The Cambridge Branch offers the following books. Address Miss M. A. Vinal, 20 Lowell Street, Cambridge, Mass.

Miscellaneous.

"Manila and the Philippines"; "The White Company," Doyle; "Revolt of the Colonies"; "Gems from Tennyson"; "Memoir of Pierre Toussaint"; Guizot's "History of the English Revolution"; "Student Life"; "Studies in Christian Biography"; "Aspendale"; "The Story without an End"; "Katharine Regina," Besant; "Famous Women: Life of Mrs. Siddons"; "Ina"; "Don Quixote"; "Life of Macready"; "Princess Eve"; "Daily Strength for Daily Needs" (selections for every day); "Windsor Castle"; "Sir Roger de Coverley Papers."

Educational.

"Elements of Botany," Bergen; "A First Book in Writing English"; "A First Book in American History"; "Mathematics for Common Schools," Walsh; "Two Years with Arithmetic"; "Arithmetic without a Pencil"; "History of the United States."

Juvenile.

"The Story of Patsy"; "Bob Benton"; "Raymond Henshaw"; "Speaking Pieces"; "Pilgrims and Puritans"; "In Old New England," H. Butterworth.

For the following books apply to Mrs. H. L. Morse, 9 Whittemore Street, West Roxbury, Mass.: "Child's Book of Nature"; "Elements of Natural Philosophy," Norton; "First Principles of Philosophy," Dolbear; "Practical Physics"; "Primer of Scientific

Knowledge," Paul Bert; "Electricity for Everybody," Philip Atkinson; "Civil Government," Judson; "The Story of the Atmosphere," Douglas Archibald; "English and American Literature," Baldwin; "First Year in English Grammar," Anderson; "Short History of Rome"; "Pure Saxon English," Elias Molin; "Outlines of the World's History," Swinton; "Essentials of Geography"; "The Nation in a Nutshell," Tewle; "Elementary Book-keeping," Shaw; "The Star City Business College"; "An Aid to Numerical Calculation"; "How to Become Quick at Figures"; Isaac Pitman's "Phonographic Instruction"; "The Clarendon Dictionary"; Bradbury's "Eaton's Practical Arithmetic"; Eaton's "Intellectual Arithmetic"; "Grammar School History of United States"; "Elements of Geography"; Otto's "French Reader."

For the following books apply to Miss Jennie Lynch, Epworth Hotel, St. Louis, Missouri: Goodrich's "Pictorial History of England"; "Manual of the Constitution"; "The Verner Arithmetic"; "Two-book Course in English"; "The Combined Spanish Method"; "Geographical Nature Stories"; "Discoverers and Explorers"; "Story of Æneas"; "Calendar Stories"; "Story of the Constitution"; "American History," Breckenridge; "A Christmas Carol," Dickens; "Miss Lou," E. P. Roe. A barrel of magazines will be sent to one willing to pay freight on same.

Miss L. Freeman Clarke, 91 Mount Vernon Street, Boston, Mass., offers "Stepping Heavenward." (If more requests are received than there are copies of the book, Miss Clarke will endeavor to send other copies when she can procure them.)

The following books are offered by Mrs. George W. Thacher, 18 Concord Square, Boston, Mass.: "Life of Sylvester Judd"; "Richard Edney," by Mr. Judd; "A Year of Consolation" (a journal of life in Rome by Mrs. Fanny Kemble Butler); "Thorpe," by William Mountford; Greek Testament.

REQUESTS.

[Read directions at beginning of Book Club before writing.]

Those who send offers and requests for the Book Club will do us a kindness by noting the following suggestions: 1. Please write

very clearly. 2. Do not use a pencil. 3. Do not use contractions, especially names of States (as Cal. and Col. for California, Colorado). 4. Write on one side only of the paper. 5. Do not forget to give your full address. (The State is now and then omitted.) 6. Do not send matter for the Book Club to Miss Clarke, but to Mrs. Nichols, the Book Club Secretary.

Those who write to us for the first time must send the name and address of a minister as a reference. Without that the request will not be printed.

1. Dear *Cheerful Letter Friends*,—I would be so grateful if some one would send me the last half year's numbers of *Ladies' Home Journal* for 1904. I would also very much like to receive "Confessions of a Wife," author's name forgotten, but it was published as a serial in *Century Magazine* in 1902. Either of the above will be thankfully received by Mrs. A. C. Earl, Delrio, Washington.

2. Miss Addie Shuford, Blackstone, North Carolina, asks for Methodist Hymnals.

3. One of your *Cheerful Letters* was handed me by Mrs. Eddie Pool, and I have been reading some of her magazines and books sent by you to her. As I have lately moved to this valley, would love to have some good reading matter sent me. Our pastor is Rev. Mr. Woolam, Baptist church. If you send me the reading, please send to Mrs. Vesta Y. King, Hagerman, New Mexico.

4. Mrs. Joseph Strickland, Union City, Michigan, an invalid, confined to her bed for twenty years, would be grateful for books, pictures, or anything to help pass the long hours.

5. May I ask the friends of the *Cheerful Letter* to send me some books and reading? There is none in the family except myself and husband. I get very lonely when he is away at his work. We are too poor to buy reading matter, and I truly hope some will come to me, as I dearly love to read. Mrs. Kitty Wilton, Verano, Virginia.

6. Miss Susan Rice, Highlands, North Carolina, asks for copies of "Young People's Library."

7. John D. Owens, Glade Springs, Virginia, a poor boy, would like the *Youth's Companion*.

8. Mrs. Mary E. Stovall, Glade Springs, Virginia, would like any reading.

9. It has been a long while since I called on the *Cheerful Letter* friends for reading; but, owing to sickness of my little boy, I am kept constantly in the house, and will again ask the dear friends to send me good books. I would like bound books, as I lend them all over the neighborhood and paper backs soon wear out; but I shall appreciate any kind. I would like the *Delineator* after it is read. My address is changed from White Mound to Tom Bean, Texas. Mrs. Roy Thompson, Tom Bean, Texas, R. F. D. 1.

10. I have been a member of the *Cheerful Letter Society* for several years, and I am thankful for the good reading that has been sent me. On Jan. 25, 1905, our house was burned and nothing was saved, so I write asking you to send me some books, as mine were all burned. Mrs. Henry Nelson, Critz, Patrick County, Virginia, R. F. D. No. 1.

11. Mrs. W. H. Griffin, Stella, Virginia, is in need of cheer and good reading.

12. Mrs. Mattie Hammond, Langton, New Mexico, will be grateful for any reading.

13. It has been some time since we have had any reading matter. I have been confined to the house all winter. My health is poor, and reading makes the hours much brighter. Should so love to receive any good books (light reading), and my son would like to receive the "American Boy." I always pass all books and magazines on. Mrs. Lillie B. Davis, Shiloh, New Jersey.

14. I wish to express my sincere thanks to all who have so kindly remembered me with books and papers. Most of these I have written to personally, but some I can only reach through the *Cheerful Letter*, which is, indeed, true to name. Mrs. J. J. Otis, 2614 Caroline Street, Houston, Texas.

15. Dear *Cheerful Letter Friends*,—I come again asking for remembrance. I have changed my address from Harrison, Boone County, Arkansas, to Rector, Clay County, Arkansas. I have to-day received three copies of the *Youth's Companion*, also three copies of the *Cheerful Letter*. We did enjoy reading them so much. We are not getting any reading, except through the *Cheerful*

Letter friends. We are thankful for any for myself or children,—four children, eldest a boy nineteen, second, a girl fifteen; third, a girl fourteen, fourth, a boy ten. All can read. We were blessed with the privilege of going to church on the last Lord's Day for the first time this year. It did me a great deal of good. I like to go to church and Sunday-school; but, owing to my health, I can't do as I wish. We like our new home very well. Think we have good neighbors and friends. We live five miles from the office, and do not get our mail regularly. Thanking you kindly for the past, Mrs. E. H. Lowe, Rector, Clay County, Arkansas.

16. It has been a long time since I wrote to the *Cheerful Letter*; but we receive it, and it is a welcome visitor to our home. I have not heard from my correspondent for a long while. I truly hope some one will write to me and send reading matter, as I live where I can distribute and pass on a lot of it. Mrs. Kate Merritt, Verano, Virginia, R. F. D. No. 1.

17. Mr. J. J. West, Grassy, Missouri, will be glad of good reading.

18. J. H. Spaulding, Wake Forest, North Carolina, would like "Bible Stories" for children.

19. Miss Laura Wilson, Lawton, Oklahoma, asks for current numbers of *Ladies' Home Journal* and any children's books.

20. Mr. Thomas Moran, Oromocto, New Brunswick, Canada, asks for current numbers of *World's Work*.

21. Mrs. Louise N. Goodwin, Sandidges, Virginia, asks for Kipling's "Poems," "Child's History of France," and "Peter Ibbetson."

22. Rev. C. F. Dykeman, Dakota, Minnesota, has received a box of books containing some valuable volumes from Newburgh, New York. He appreciates this kindness very much, and desires to acknowledge the receipt of the box through the columns of the *Cheerful Letter*.

The Editor would be glad to receive copies of the first number of the *Cheerful Letter* (June, 1892). Also copies of the *Cheerful Letter* for January, 1898. Send directly to Miss L. Freeman Clarke, 91 Mount Vernon Street, Boston, Mass.

THE MOTHERS' COUNCIL.

[The first of these articles was printed seven years ago; but, as the second did not follow at that time, it seems necessary to reprint the first, in order that the connection may be retained.]

CARELESS CHILDREN.

A sin of omission has weighed on my conscience for some years, and I hope now for an opportunity to repair it,—at least, in a measure.

Some time ago I read in a little domestic paper a letter from a mother who was tormenting herself because her daughter, a young girl of fourteen, was neglectful and careless. The daughter was gentle, sweet-tempered, and obedient, but habitually forgot everything she was asked to do. The mother seemed to be very unhappy, and to think that she had done everything in her power to cure this fault. Evidently she thought she had done her part, and that there was some exceptional defect in her daughter. She "had punished her in every way she could think of," and made a merit of this. The result was complete failure. I remember that one of the concluding sentences was, "And yet, unless we can cure such faults as these, what useless—nay, worse than useless—men and women our children will become!"

There were several errors exposed in the statement of the case. But, being extremely busy, and hoping that others would write sensible answers, the present writer abstained. Letters of advice were printed, but none very practical, nor did they meet the difficulty.

Assuming that the evil was not an exceptional one, and that the young girl was not an abnormal case, but represented a common type, it seems worth while to touch upon the subject even now.

In the first place, one error of the mother—a good, conscientious woman—was, like many others, in not understanding the nature of children. The mind of a child does not hold and carry an idea. The present is all-pervasive, and absorbs all the faculties. You might as well expect the child to hold something as large as it can grasp in its hand, without dropping what was held before, as to carry in its mind two ideas,—the one which occupies it for the time and the previous one.

Secondly, it is extremely discouraging to a good and gentle child (and exasperating to an irritable one) to have an involuntary failure treated as a conscious fault. Repeated unjust punishment hardens some natures and renders others hopeless.

A third error is the overstatement of the case. No doubt there is serious inconvenience in careless and forgetful habits; but we all know men and women of mature age who have never been cured of these defects, and who are not "worse than useless," nor even "useless." Such instances will occur to all of us. And, while a little gentle and kindly fun is made of lapses of memory and absent-minded performances, the most helplessly unpractical and careless-minded persons are often much loved and honored for their moral qualities, and even for great usefulness in certain lines. To every man his own gifts. But to require a girl of fourteen *not to have any faults* is to require not only that she shall be a full-grown woman, but a full-grown woman of a *perfect* character. How many such women do we know?

No doubt the better a mother can succeed in training her children and in eliminating the natural faulty tendencies inherited by all, the better are these prepared for the battle of life and the better their chance of usefulness and happiness. But who shall teach the teachers? The passage from Hamlet is suggestive here:—

Hamlet.—Will you play upon this pipe?

Guil.—My lord, I cannot.

Hamlet.—I pray you.

Guil.—Believe me, I cannot.

Hamlet.—I do beseech you.

Guil.—I have not the skill.

Hamlet.—Why, look you now, how unworthy a thing you make of me! You would play upon me; you would seem to know my stops; you would pluck out the heart of my mystery; you would sound me from my lowest notes to the top of my compass; and there is much music, excellent voice in this little organ; yet you cannot make it speak. Do you think I am easier to be played on than a pipe? Call me what instrument you will; though you fret me, you cannot play upon me.

And here is a piece of wisdom from Jacob Abbott: "With a distinct recognition of the fact that whatever is bad in the *native tendencies* of your children's minds is probably inherited from their parents and perhaps

especially from yourself, and that whatever is wrong in their *habits of action* is certainly the result of bad training, proceed cautiously and gently, but perseveringly and firmly, in bringing the bent stem gradually up to the right position.

"Instead of being angry with them or fretting and complaining about the trouble they give her, she (the mother) should leave them, as it were, out of the case, and turn her thoughts to herself and to her own management, with a view to the discovery and the correcting of her own derelictions and errors."

Is it not probable that when a system fails entirely, even with a gentle and sweet tempered girl, there is something wrong in the methods? Yet this mother seemed to think that all the trouble was caused by something wrong in her daughter, instead of by her own blunders. Better cease altogether her efforts at correction, since, if her own incapacity as a trainer could not be removed, she might at least retain her child's affection and confidence and preserve a pleasant, harmonious relation, while the awkward and tactless hammering upon the tender stem does not accomplish the result aimed at, and might, in the end, injure the young girl's character or temper irretrievably.

In the next number we will consider the right method of handling such a fault.

THE EARL OF SHAFTESBURY.

The year 1848 was ushered in amid distrust, perplexity, and doubt. Everywhere there was foreboding of some unseen and undefined misfortunes. Men's souls were stirred by strange presentiments.

It was not long before the first rumblings were heard which presaged the coming storm.

"Events are coming to the surface," wrote Lord Ashley* early in the year. "We see the stir on the waves, and we shall soon see the mass thrown up by the volcanoes. Italy is in open revolution; Austria is crumbling to pieces; France internally is threatened by reform conflicts; England is harassed by falling revenue, want of employment, republican principles, and Church dissensions; America is rushing to debt, foreign conquest, and dissolution of States."

*Lord Ashley was Lord Shaftesbury's name before the death of his father.

The great event which was to become the signal for the pent-up fires to break forth all over Europe was not a surprise to some, although unexpected by the majority,—a third revolution in France, the proclamation of a republic, the expulsion of the Orleans dynasty, and the election of a Provisional Government and a National Assembly.

Under the date of the 19th April Lord Ashley entered in his Diary:—

"April 19th.—Osborne, Isle of Wight. The queen has sent for me to talk over the condition of the working people, and here I am. I was obliged to put off Golden Lane Ragged School. Her Majesty very amiable and very considerate for the poor. God be praised who has put such thoughts into her heart! May they bring forth fruit to his glory on earth, and her own peace in time and eternity!" . . .

From a memorandum found among the papers of Lord Shaftesbury, and from conversations with him on the subject noted down at the time, the following particulars are obtained:—

"The queen sent for me to Osborne; the '*Fairy*' was ready for me at Gosport, and I went. The queen was greatly alarmed, and so was the prince, by the revolution in France and the exile of Louis Philippe. They feared the continuance of commotions in England, and were desirous to know how they could exercise their influence to soothe the people. The queen, on my arrival, expressed this sentiment very warmly, and added at dinner: 'The prince will talk to you to-morrow. We have sent for you to have your opinion on what we should do in view of the state of affairs to show our interest in the working classes, and you are the only man who can advise us in the matter.'

"On the following morning, during a long walk in the gardens, lasting for over an hour and a half, I discussed with the prince the condition of affairs and the state of the nation. He asked my advice, and how he could best assist toward the common weal.

"Now, sir," I said to him, 'I have to ask your royal highness whether I am to speak out freely or to observe court form?'

"For God's sake," he answered, 'speak out freely.'

"Then, sir, I would say that at this juncture you hold a position in which you can render to the country far greater assistance than if you were its king. You can speak as a king, without the necessary and inevitable restrictions of a king. Your presence,

though formally different, is virtually the presence of the queen. My earnest advice to you is that you should put yourself at the head of all social movements in art and science, and especially of those movements as they bear upon the poor, and thus show the interest felt by royalty in the happiness of the kingdom.'

"What can I do?" the prince asked eagerly.

"On the 18th of May next the anniversary of the Laborers' Friend Society will be held; and, if your royal highness will accompany me, first to see some of the dwellings of the poor, and afterward to preside at the meeting, I am satisfied it will have a good effect. You should come in three carriages, and have the footmen in red liveries. Even these things are not without their influence.'

"The prince at once fell in with the suggestion, and arrangements for carrying it out were discussed. But, when Lord John Russell heard it, he was frantic, and brought to bear every possible opposition, as he often did with regard to other schemes which he did not originate himself."

Soon after this Lord Ashley had another interview with the prince at Buckingham Palace, and urged him to persevere in his intention. "This is a matter," he said, "in which your royal highness is perfectly free to act as you please, and my advice is that you tell Lord John Russell that you are as good a judge as he is."

On the 29th April the prince wrote to Lord John Russell:—

"The book which you sent me certainly shows great disposition on the part of some mischievous folks to attack the royal family; but this rather furnishes me with one more reason for attending the meeting, and showing to those who are thus to be misguided that the royal family are not merely living upon the earnings of the people (as these publications try to represent) without caring for the poor laborers, but that they are anxious about their welfare and ready to co-operate in any scheme for the amelioration of their condition. We may possess these feelings, and yet the mass of the people may be ignorant of it, because they have never heard it expressed to them, or seen any tangible proof of it."

Eventually the advice of Lord Ashley prevailed. The opposition of Lord John Russell was overruled.

On the appointed day the prince arrived with a brilliant cortège, and, accompanied

by Lord Ashley, went to George Street, St. Giles's, and other streets in that neighborhood, entered house after house to examine the actual state of affairs, and was received everywhere with the utmost enthusiasm. Later on the prince took the chair at the public meeting, and, as Sir Theodore Martin says truly, "made it the occasion for the speech which first fairly showed to the country what he was."

Lord Ashley refers to it in his Diary thus:—

"May 19th.—Yesterday a glorious meeting of the Laborers' Friend Society. Prince Albert in the chair. *Non nobis Domine, non nobis Domine!* but God give us grace to bless Thee. No drawback at all, it is new life to our efforts."

"May 20th.—Hear little but satisfaction at the success of the meeting, 'So wise, so opportune, so very happy,' all this because it succeeded. What would have been the indignation and contempt against me had it failed! But God was my helper. I may now, on this stock of reputation for good judgment, obtain influence to do good in other things. 'Put into my heart good desires, and enable me to bring the same to good effect.' Prince Albert did his part admirably, with remarkable grace and modesty. His speech, too, was excellent in itself; and it was his own. The success has been hitherto complete: almost every paper bepraises the step, and writes upon it in an anti-revolutionary tone. Aye, truly, this is the way to stifle Chartism. . . . Rank, leisure, station, are gifts of God, for which men must give an account. Here is a full proof, a glowing instance! The aristocracy, after a long separation, are reapproaching the people; and the people the aristocracy." *The Life of Shaftesbury, by Hodder.*

NATURAL HISTORY.

BIRDS IN OUR BOSTON PUBLIC GARDEN.

Most of our citizens have seen the numerous placards for the protection of birds we have put on the trees on our Common and in our parks and Public Garden, in which we offer many prizes for evidence to convict of any violation of laws in regard to them.

In the *Boston Evening Transcript* we find a most beautiful description of the various kinds of birds found in our Public Garden from which we take the following:—

"I remember one morning in May that I counted nearly thirty kinds of birds in the

Public Garden. Most of them were near the pond. In the bushes near the pond were a few catbirds and Baltimore orioles, together with quite a flock of warblers. Magnolias, summer yellowbirds, Canadians, redstarts, parulas, and water thrushes could be seen here and there. One water thrush that had been stalking around under a thick clump of shrubbery very boldly came walking out on the grass, entirely oblivious of my near presence. The black poll warblers were shy, and kept hidden in the shrubbery, but the others scrambled over twigs and limbs and hunted for insect's eggs or larvæ within a few feet of people.

"But most interesting were the swallows that skimmed over the pond, now lightly brushing the water, now darting under or over the bridge, and often settling on the stone pillars beneath it. There were three kinds, barn swallows, bank swallows, and tree swallows, or white-bellied swallows, as they are often called. The bank swallows were on wing most of the time, and so were most of the tree swallows; but the barn swallows often settled on the pillars and kept up a soft, gentle chatter. Then a little shower came up, which frightened nearly all the barn swallows under the bridge. The others did not seem to mind it.

"The chimney swifts, or chimney swallows, as they are too often misnamed, were even more numerous than the swallows, but did not confine their attention to the pond, and never settled on the bridge."

The writer asserts that in this garden of ten acres, right in the heart of our great city, *more than seventy species of birds* have been found.

Ought not Boston to be proud of such a showing? And is not some of the credit due to our *American Humane Education Society and Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals*?

Canon Rownsley, on Saint Martin's, after describing good Saint Martin, added:—

"Some of you, my friends, followers of the gentle Christ, come to worship, nay, *come to the Supper of our Lord*, wearing 'egret' plumes or 'ospreys' in your hats and bonnets. Do you realize that this 'egret' plume grows on the bird's back only at the time of nesting, and that to obtain one such feather involves the cruel death not only of the beautiful white mother heron, but of the whole nestful of its nearly fledged offspring? What a price to pay for the plea-

sure of an egret plume! What a travesty of religion to be able to come into church decked with an egret feather and sing in the words of the Benedicite: '*O all ye fowls of the air, bless ye the Lord! praise Him and magnify Him forever!*' *What a mockery to kneel at Holy Communion, take the soldier's oath of allegiance unto the Lord,—that gentle Lord of all compassion and mercy, that Lord who said, 'Consider the fowls of the air!' who told us that not a sparrow falls to the earth unregarded by the Heavenly Father!*"—*Our Dumb Animals.*

LETTERS OF A SISTER.

[Portions of these letters were accidentally destroyed by fire. The following fragment is retained because it speaks of Dr. Freeman, whose health was failing.]

To her Brother, James Freeman Clarke.

MAY 5, 1835.

(I hope you are coming) . . . home this summer, as you have an opportunity, for you may not have another chance of seeing grandfather. He is so feeble that the least thing makes him very sick, and the least accident would deprive him of life and us of our beloved patriarch.

The Mr. R. that I wrote you about is not a very good sort of man by all accounts; but John Sargent would be a good substitute, and he would be very glad to go, I am thinking.

Farewell, my dear James.

Yours ever,
SARAH.

NEWTON, July 16, 1835.

My dear James,—There is really at last a rational ground for hope that we shall see you here this summer, as Mr. Rice departs next week for Louisville, where he proposes to relieve you the three ensuing months. The young man considers it quite a privilege. Mother went to Cambridge yesterday to hear him speak, but, unfortunately, arrived too late. However, she rejoiced in the Philanthropic Society meeting, where there was a great strife about the new system of preaching to children. Barnard and Waterston maintained the field against all the rest of the Boston ministers, who were outrageous about it; and mother came very near, as far as I could learn, getting up and making a speech herself, but she succeeded

in refraining. There was a violent thunder shower coming home, and she was very much frightened, at which grandfather was mightily entertained; "for," said he, "is it not mere affectation in a courageous woman who would take Luther by the beard if she could meet with him to pretend to be afraid of thunder and rain?"

I have just returned from Greenfield, where I had a very agreeable visit. Harriet depends on seeing in the course of the summer. I passed ten days at Groton with Margaret, to my great satisfaction and enjoyment. Thence I went to Greenfield, where I stayed a week, and accompanied George, Harriet, Mrs. W. Davis, Louisa, and George Curtis to Lebanon Springs, where I made acquaintance with the Shakers. We stayed there a week, and returned to Greenfield through Northampton, where Harriet and I went up Mount Holyoke. After our return I passed another week there, and came home with George, who was obliged to come to Boston on business. I enjoyed the journey very much, and saw as many hills and woods and rivers and mountains as I wanted to, and I enjoyed the daily domestic life of my friends, and, when I see you, I will tell you the impressions received. Mr. Rice wishes you not to leave till he gets there, as he needs to be initiated. He is of this year's growth in theology.

I received all your three letters while at Greenfield. I am very glad of your rencontre with Miss Martineau, and delighted that you are so satisfied with her. She is a living illustration of your favorite text about "doing with thy might what thy hand findeth to do," it strikes me. It is delightful to find her so earnest, sincere, and humble as her letter to you shows her to be. Certainly hers is a new character as well as mind. Aunt Campbell writes me that she is much affected by the letter to the deaf, though she does not like the political economics. She says: "Since I have read her admirable letter to the deaf, I have been drawn to her by a fellow-feeling; for you know I have something of that infirmity to contend with, and have not only been captivated by her cheerful submission to the will of Heaven, but her right and beautiful application of this 'thorn in the flesh,' to the best purposes of good for which it was intended." Aunt Campbell called to see Miss Martineau when in Augusta, but she was out, and stayed too short a time for a renewal of the visit; and Aunt C. thought

that there were too many already to hold the *tube*, and that she must have been tired. You probably had her all to yourself. I am very glad you went to meet her.

I have no time to fill up, as the letter must go. Will proposes to leave us, too, soon.

Yours ever,

Sarah.

THE AMUSEMENT COLUMN.

[Address everything relating to the Amusement Column to Miss Kate L. Watson, Post-office Box 57, Worcester, Mass. Contributors are requested to write on one side of the paper only. Write name and address *plainly* (not necessarily for publication), and send the answers to the puzzles on a separate slip of paper.]

I.

OLD ENOUGH TO BE NEW.

RIDDLE.

By Mary Howitt.

From rosy bowers we issue forth,
From east, from west, from south, from north;

Unseen, unchecked, by night and day,
Abroad we take our airy way.

We foster love, we kindle strife,
The bitter and the sweet of life;
Piercing and sharp we wound like steel,
Then smooth as oil those wounds we heal.

Not strings of pearl are valued more,
Nor diamonds set in golden ore;
Yet thousands of us, every day,
Worthless and vile are thrown away.

Ye wise, secure with bars of brass
The double doors through which we pass;
For, once escaped, back to our cell
No human art can us compel.

II.

Charade.

"First you love?" asked Tom, tenderly. *Second, third* hesitated, hung down her head and blushed, but answered, "*I first.*" "Bless you, *second, third,*" said Tom, fervently. Then Tom went to her father. "*First* you, sir," he asked, "bring yourself to allow, *second, third* to leave you, and go with me to my distant home in *whole?*"

"I always liked you, Tom," said the

father, adding heartily if ungrammatically, "*second, third, first* go, if she wishes to." So *second, third* went, and there is no happier home than theirs in all *whole*. K. L. W.

III.

For the Little Ones.

Old Mother Hudduddle
Dancing in the mudpuddle,
Red shoes and white cap;
You may guess all your lifetime
And not guess that.

IV.

For the Cheerful Letter.

Easy Enigma.

I am a word of seven letters.
My 6, 7, 5, 2, 4, is a refreshing drink.
My 3, 4, 1, is a boy's plaything or a nocturnal visitor.
My 3, 2, 4, 1, is used for pleasure in summer and for profit in the winter.
My whole is a poisonous plant considered a luxury by many.

V.

For the Cheerful Letter.

Paradoxes.

Fill up the blanks with words composed of the same letters, but differently arranged or differently divided.

Example.—What is the difference between bringing a cow and her calf *together*, and going to the pasture *to get her*? There are, of course, no answers to the questions.

1. What is the difference between a soothing —, and soothing a lost —?
2. What is the difference between being — to writing, and writing —?
3. What is the difference between saying that Mary — — —, and saying that her name is Mary —?

VI.

Conundrums.

1. What is the difference between a lemon and a donkey?
2. What is always in debt without any particular reason for it?
3. What is always in trouble through rolling in riches?

Answers to Puzzles in the April Number.

- I. April Hopes (ape rill hopes).
- II. Care killed a cat.
- III. A tree.
- IV. An icicle.

- V. 1. In the land of Nod.
 2. Lying still.
 3. Asleep.
 4. Just that.
- VI. "White Lies," by Charles Reade.

MONTHLY REPORT.

The sixth regular meeting of the season was held at 25 Beacon Street, on Friday, April 7, with Miss Clarke in the chair. Twenty-nine were present.

The reports of the secretary and treasurer were read. The balance on hand on March 31 was \$263.68. The subscription list of *The Cheerful Letter* is larger than ever before, 1,714 copies being sent out in March. It is a gain of about fifty copies in a year, but a much larger increase is desired.

Miss Brown reported that during the month four new libraries had been sent out and two old ones moved. The committee on books is now approving the lists of two more new libraries. A discussion followed in regard to certain books, and those members present seemed to be of the opinion that, as there were so many good books to choose from, those about which there could be any doubt should not be sent in libraries.

Miss Clarke stated that the edition of "Gentle Measures in Training the Young" is nearly exhausted. The friend who has so generously given seven hundred and fifty copies cannot furnish more. An addition of two hundred and fifty copies could be obtained for \$100, if any of the branches feel inclined to contribute or to promise to buy copies when the edition is printed.

Miss Clarke also spoke of the proposed memorial to Miss Frances Power Cobbe, and suggested that, if a small sum of money was raised, it could be given in her memory to some humane work or could be used in printing a cheap edition of some of Miss Cobbe's writings, and so enabling more people to become familiar with her books.

The roll-call followed, and nineteen committees responded. The branch at Concord, New Hampshire, was represented for the first time.

Miss Jenks read a letter from Mrs. Guernsey, and showed two rugs that Mrs. Guernsey had made and sent to Miss Jenks as a "thank offering" for what the members of the Cheerful Letter Exchange had done for her. The rugs will be used in the rooms in which the Bedford committee holds its meetings.

The secretary of the branch at the First Church, Boston, read a letter from a young man in New Mexico, who had first learned of our work through the posters sent to post-offices. Miss Fisher stated that about fifty applications had come through the posters.

The work at the Church of the Disciples is carried on by about eight classes in the Sunday-school. They have recently had their "Cheerful Letter Sunday," when reports were given by each class and a number of letters read.

The committees are all doing their usual good work, and many are interested in the travelling libraries.

The meeting was adjourned at twelve o'clock.

BERTHA LANGMAID,

Secretary.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS.

Mrs. Eva N. Warren, from Fernando, California, to Glendale, Los Angeles County, California.

Mrs. W. C. Smith, from Chase, Kansas, to Sterling, Kansas.

Mrs. E. F. Low's address is now Rector, Arkansas.

Rev. H. J. Aycock, Charlotte, North Carolina, Y. M. C. A. Building, would be glad to receive good books.

We should be glad to know whether the friends of Mrs. Solomon Day, Trenton, Nebraska, have heard from her lately. Mrs. Day has moved or was about to move from Trenton when we heard last. Address this information to Miss Frances B. Fisher, 25 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass., Room 10.

THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH.

For, lo, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come.

I suspect we shall find some day that the loss of the human paradise consists chiefly in the closing of the human eyes; that at least far more of it than people think, remains about us still, only we are so filled with foolish desires and evil cares that we cannot see or hear, cannot even smell or taste, the pleasant things around us.—George MacDonald.

THE EDITOR'S CORNER.

The Editor takes this opportunity of making a proposal which she hopes may lead to something mutually helpful.

We sometimes see in the papers questions and suggestions in regard to economy in dress or in household affairs. To many of our members it is an object to make a small income available for the greatest amount of comfort.

We will propose two questions, and hope for interesting answers.

Can any one who spends fifty dollars a year (or less) on her dress give us the exact items of this expenditure?

Can any one who expends ten cents a day (for each person) on her table give us the account of her expenditure?

A third request may be added. We should be glad to receive receipts for simple, palatable dishes, which vary agreeably an economical bill of fare. As a beginning, a friend has contributed the following.

Diced Mush. This was a favorite dish at supper in my childhood, and I do not recall seeing it lately. It makes a pleasant change from Indian meal boiled, and eaten simply as porridge. Boil as if for porridge, only making it very stiff and thick, and preparing it thus the day before it is eaten. When quite cold, cut in slices (as if for frying). Cut it again into small square pieces. Heat milk in a saucepan. Warm the mush up quickly in the milk, adding salt enough to make it palatable, and serve immediately.

If I could have my utmost wish, my God,
I'd pray to thee,
Impress me with thy holy will, my being
with thy presence fill,
That it may ever be
My purpose, while on earth I live, expression
to thy love to give.
This, God, my earnest plea;
Let love divine shine from my face, my every
act express thy grace,—
If I could have my utmost wish, my God,
this would it be.

—Robert J. Brown.

A teacher who can arouse a feeling for one single good action, for one single good poem, accomplishes more than he who fills our memory with rows on rows of natural objects, classified with name and form.—
Goethe.

IMPORTANT NOTICES.

Givers of books are reminded that only books of an instructive or wholesome nature should be offered in the Book Club. Classics, educational works, and standard novels are always acceptable. Do not offer odd numbers of periodicals, but send them directly to one of the many stations where they are acceptable.

THE ATTENTION OF ALL READERS OF "THE CHEERFUL LETTER" IS CALLED TO THE FOLLOWING NOTICE:—

It is contrary to the rules of the Cheerful Letter Exchange to allow any one to make use of our paper by addressing letters, asking for money, clothing, or other articles, to those whose names are printed in the paper. This prohibition includes requests to borrow money and the offering of articles for sale. The name of any person who infringes this rule will be dropped from our list; and any one who receives a request of this description is desired by our Executive Committee to return no answer, but to enclose the letter at once to our secretary, Miss Langmaid.

Not feeling only is our need,
But sober reason, righteous deed:
We need the vital word whose force
Gives worlds and men their ordered course.

—Harriet Ware Hall.

If any one tells you that such a person speaks ill of you, do not make excuses about what is said of you, but answer, "He was ignorant of my other faults, else he would not have mentioned these alone."—*Epictetus.*

DIRECTIONS.

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ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—Miss Frances B. Fisher, 491 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass.

SECRETARY OF BOOK CLUB OF CHEERFUL LETTER EXCHANGE.—Mrs. W. B. Nichols, 2 Kensington Park, Roxbury, Mass.

TREASURER OF CHEERFUL LETTER EXCHANGE.—Mrs. Charles T. Catlin, 25 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass. Checks should be made payable to Mary Louise Catlin.

Subscriptions and renewals should be sent to the treasurer, also all changes of address and requests for discontinuance. The subscription is fifty cents a year. If subscribers do not receive the paper regularly, they are requested to notify Mrs. Catlin at once.

Those not able to subscribe for the paper, but desiring to receive it, may do so by writing to Mrs. Catlin, as above. Please give full name and address. Also send name of minister as reference. Some of our members take the paper in order to send it to those who are not able to subscribe for it.